

ORACLE CHARTER SCHOOL  
888 Delaware Avenue  
Buffalo, New York 14209

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Thursday, March 1, 2018**

Board Co-Chairs Jacqueline Hollins and Ramone Alexander called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

The following individuals were present:

*Trustees* – Jacqueline Hollins, Ramone Alexander, John Whitty, Susan Hakala, Ron Stewart, Pastor George Nicholas, and Tom Bailey by phone

*Trustees Excused:* Divitta Alexander, Bryan Donohue, Maureen Ludwig, James McLeod, Ramelli Choates

*Administration* – Janet Barnes, Benjamin Willis, Ellen Connell, Dara Seeley, Kathy Herman, Donna Nowak

*Legal* – Steve Polowitz

*Consultants* – Karen Burhans

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon a Motion by John Whitty seconded by Jacqueline Hollins, the Board unanimously approved the minutes from the February 1, 2018 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

**SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION UPDATES**

Curriculum & Instruction – Ms. Seeley: provided statistics on pass/failure rates in each course, comparing marking period 1 and marking period 2 and asked for funding for Saturday studies for Regents preparation and credit recovery to help make transfers to other schools more positive. Co-chair Alexander noted that the Finance Committee would look at the proposal. It was also suggested that administrators should look for grant funding to cover this cost.

Student Enrollment, Discipline and Attendance – Ms. Connell: enrollment stands at 296 students; 82.6% attendance rate for February 2018; 130 total removals of students from class representing 83 individual students; 56 full period removals. The decision to not renew Oracle's charter was cited as a major reason for student behavior problems.

Head of School - Ms. Barnes: noted that she received an email from David Frank, Director of the Charter School Office of the NY State Department of Education (the “CSO”) confirming that his office will consider granting a non-material charter revision to any NYSED authorized charter high school in the Buffalo area that requests an enrollment preference for OCS students on the basis that they are at high “risk of academic failure”.

Ms. Barnes has been coordinating outreach with the Buffalo Public Schools and other city charter schools to see what options are available to OCS students who will not be graduating in June. She also noted that at Monday in-service meetings, teachers and staff are being given clear updates.

Faculty and Staff – Ms. Herman noted that there have been 2 new hires and that there are no current vacancies.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 6:36 PM upon Motion by Pastor Nicholas seconded by Jacqueline Hollins, the Board unanimously agreed to enter Executive Session to discuss confidential personnel and legal matters. At 7:55 PM upon Motion by Susan Hakala seconded by Ron Stewart, the board unanimously agreed to leave Executive Session.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:56 PM upon Motion by Ron Stewart seconded by Jacqueline Hollins, the Board unanimously approved adjournment of the meeting. The next Regular Board meeting will be held on April 5, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hakala  
Secretary to the Board